

Chair:
Councillor Charles Adje

Deputy Chair:
Councillor Harry Lister

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Executive at our special meeting on 14 March 2006. For ease of reference the Report is divided into the Executive portfolios.
- 1.2 We trust that this Report will be helpful to Members in their representative role and facilitate a fruitful dialogue between the Executive and all groups of Councillors. These reports are a welcome opportunity for the Executive on a regular basis to present the priorities and achievements of the Executive to Council colleagues for consideration and comment. The Executive values and encourages the input of fellow members.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Housing

2. HOMES FOR HARINGEY DELIVERY PLAN

- 6.3 The Council will be aware that it's relationship with Homes for Haringey is defined in the management agreement which sets out the obligations of each party. This agreement covers:

- the functions to be delegated to and carried out by Homes for Haringey;
- the standards to which they are to be carried out;
- arrangements for reporting on and monitoring performance;
- requirements for involvement of tenants in decision making;
- the financial relationship and obligations of each party;
- arrangements for liaison and consultation between the Council and Homes for Haringey;
- Homes for Haringey's role in helping to deliver the Councils housing strategy;
- the length of the agreement;
- actions to be taken where there is non-compliance or failure; and
- arrangements for termination.

At our meeting on 20 December 2005 we agreed that approval of the final version of the Management Agreement on behalf of the Council be delegated to the Director of Housing in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing.

- 2.2 During its first year Homes for Haringey is required to complete a Delivery Plan set by the Council in consultation with the ALMO Board. The first year Delivery Plan is formally part of the Management Agreement, and it will be re-negotiated each year.
- 2.3 We considered a report which advised us that the Delivery Plan which was available on the Council's Web Site set out the purposes and mission of the ALMO, its business objectives and its performance targets and was, in many ways, the critical document within the Management Agreement.

- 2.4 We noted that the Delivery Plan had been discussed by the ALMO Transition Member Working Group, residents and the Shadow ALMO Board. The document would be included with the Management Agreement before it was formally signed at the end of March 2006 and a draft Delivery Plan had been submitted with the Section 27 application.
- 2.5 'Homes for Haringey' was due to go live as Haringey Council's arms length management organisation (ALMO) on 1 April 2006. The Board, made up of residents, Councillors and independent experts, had been meeting since October 2005 to prepare for its new role and to plan the service. The Delivery Plan once agreed by the Council and by the Board, would set out the organisation's aims and objectives and what it plans to do in its first year. Crucially, by the end of 2006/07, Homes for Haringey was aiming -

- to have secured around £200 million of funding over 4 years to improve tenants' homes and environments; and
- to be providing high quality services to at least a 2 star standard.

The Council and the Board were committed to working in partnership, with Government support, to achieve real improvements in residents' lives and living conditions.

- 2.6 The Delivery Plan submitted to us outlined the main services which will be delivered during the first year of operation of Homes for Haringey. The Plan -

- Showed how services provided by Homes for Haringey would meet the needs of residents
- Showed how Homes for Haringey would be accountable to residents and the Council
- Set out priorities and targets for delivering and improving services
- Showed how Homes for Haringey would meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010, subject to funding
- Set out the key performance targets that would be used to monitor progress against the plan

- 2.7 We noted that the primary and supporting objectives had been agreed by residents, the Shadow Board and the ALMO Transition Member Working Group and these are listed below. Each section had a detailed table in the Plan showing what the deliverable will be for year one in addition to best value and local performance indicators.

Primary & Supporting Business Objectives

The two primary objectives of the organisation flowed directly from the Mission Statement. They were:

Homes for Haringey: Primary Objectives

- To improve the quality of the housing stock to a modern standard and to achieve the Decent Homes standard by 2010.
- To deliver a high quality and improving service to all residents and achieve excellence.

Homes for Haringey: Supporting Business Objectives

Seven supporting business objectives flowed from our primary objectives and were:

- To work in partnership with Haringey Council and key partners to deliver the objectives of the Community Strategy.
- To maximise the participation and influence of residents.
- To ensure that our estates are safe and decent places to live.
- To become an excellent and well-led organisation that values its staff.
- To create a service based on equality of opportunity for all which recognises the diversity of the community it serves.
- To manage in the most efficient and effective manner revenue and capital resources.
- To be a model of good practice in governing the affairs of Homes for Haringey.

2.8 The final section of the Plan detailed how the Council would monitor Homes for Haringey against agreed performance targets. A copy of the Delivery Plan as it stood at the time of our meeting was available on the Council's Web Site and we noted that it was still subject to further input by Homes for Haringey as it became operational and in the light of the indicative inspection by the Audit Commission.

WE RECOMMEND

That the Council

1. Agree in principle the Homes for Haringey's first year Delivery Plan as outlined above pending further input by Homes for Haringey as it becomes operational and in the light of feedback from the indicative Inspection by the Audit Commission expected to be carried at the end of March 2006.
2. Agree that approval of the final Delivery Plan document be delegated to the Executive Member for Housing and the Chief Executive of Homes for Haringey.

Children and Young People

3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2006- 09

- 3.1 We considered a report which advised us that under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 each Children's Services Authority (CSA) had to make arrangements to promote co-operation with all relevant bodies to improve the well being of the children and young people in their area. Partner organisations named in the Act had a duty to co-operate with the CSA in this endeavour. One expression of this duty was the requirement to produce a strategic plan for children and young people.
- 3.2 We noted that following the introduction of the Act the Government had introduced guidance for production of the Plan during 2005. Strategic plans had to be produced by 1 April 2006 and cover the following three years. They had to be developed together with partners and in consultation with children and young people and the local community.

3.3 Prior to writing the Plan, widespread consultation had taken place and a needs assessment had been produced entitled "Knowing our Children and Young People - Planning for their Futures". The annual health report of HTPCT "Growing Up in Haringey" had also focused on children and young people. The Plan had been drawn up in response to:

- the Government guidance
- the views and opinions collected during consultation
- the results of the needs assessment and the annual health report.

The development had been overseen by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

3.4 The Plan has been formed around the five outcomes set out in the Children Act; be healthy, stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well being. An additional section focused on vulnerable children and young people. The full Plan was available on the Council's Web Site.

3.5 We also noted that consultation had been carried out over the last 12 months in a variety of formats with a wide range of people including several events with young people such as the "Come and Be Heard" conference for 150 young people last July, a question time event in October and the recent "Safer Solutions" conference held in February 2006. In addition a major multi-agency event for over 400 practitioners "Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Haringey" had been held in September 2005 followed by consultation at HarCEN's annual conference. Presentations had also been made at a range of forums and meetings to give as many people as possible the chance to make comments and observations.

3.6 The results of the consultations and surveys had been used to develop 13 priorities which were the subject of formal consultation in January and 24 February 2006. A formal consultation leaflet had been designed by Exposure, a design agency that specialised in working with young people. 25,000 of these leaflets had been distributed across Haringey and it was also available on the Council's Web Site. The leaflet included a freepost tear off slip for people to return comments. A full list of the consultation events and surveys was reported to us.

WE RECOMMEND

That the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 as outlined above be approved.

Leader

4. CO-ORDINATING THE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES IN LONDON

4.1 The Council at its meeting on 22 March 2004 at the request of the Association of London Government (ALG) passed the first "LA Gold" resolution which delegated each Council's emergency powers, under section 138 Local Government Act 1972, to a "Gold" Chief Executive, that is, one of several of the serving London Chief Executives trained and ready to

take on this role. The Gold Chief Executive had powers to co-ordinate a response on a London-wide basis to a “catastrophic incident” declared by Central Government. The emergency powers under section 138 enabled a Council to incur expenditure in response to an imminent or actual emergency/disaster involving danger to life or property and likely to affect the whole or part of a Council’s area.

- 4.2 Under the first resolution and arrangements, the Gold Chief Executive could only incur expenditure if Central Government had confirmed that it would reimburse any exceptional expenditure reasonably incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- 4.3 We considered a report which advised us that the ALG had recently asked all London Councils to pass a revised LA Gold resolution. There were two main reasons for this new development:
- the impact of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and
 - the lessons of the July 2005 bombings which illustrate the need for the Boroughs to work together when an event is serious but insufficiently drastic in its effect to warrant being declared “catastrophic”.
- 4.4 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 conferred no new powers on local authorities but it did confer an Order-making power on Ministers which had yet to be exercised. This would involve special legal powers needed for the most serious or catastrophic events. Under the 2004 Act, the Government had issued non-statutory guidance entitled “Emergency Response and Recovery”. The Guidance obliged Regional Civil Contingencies Committees (RCCCs) to organise multi-agency planning and strategic management. RCCC meetings set three levels of response:
- Level 1: convened when prior warning of an emergency is available, or
 - Level 2: a single site or wide area disruptive challenge needing a co-ordinated response by various agencies, or
 - Level 3: the most serious, which would involve a Central Government declaration that special legislative Orders were to be made under the 2004 Act.
- 4.5 In London, unlike other regions in England, the RCCC was likely to be referred to as a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) particularly for immediate impact, police-led emergencies. The revised LA Gold resolution would take effect in the event of an emergency requiring a level 2 response. This could be an event broadly equivalent in its impact to the July 2005 bombings, or worse, but less drastic than a “catastrophic incident” meriting a level 3 response. The revised resolution had to be passed by all the London Councils before it could come into operation.
- 4.6 The power of the Gold Chief Executive to incur expenditure would only come into effect if the Gold Chief Executive had received prior confirmation from:
- (i) the Minister of State for Resilience that Central Government would reimburse expenditure reasonably incurred by the Gold Chief Executive to safeguard life or property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience;

- (ii) the Council(s) in whose area the emergency had occurred that the Council(s) would reimburse expenditure incurred for the purposes in (i) above.

4.7 The report we considered requested us to recommend agreement to the revised LA Gold resolution and we were informed that there had been a similar but separate report to the General Purposes Committee on 2 March recommending consequential amendments to Part J.1 of the Council's Constitution relating to "Joint Arrangements". We noted that once the Council had confirmed the resolution below, it would be asked to adopt the amendments to the Constitution.

WE RECOMMEND

That the following resolution be adopted –

1. This resolution is made in accordance with section 138 Local Government Act 1972, section 101 Local Government Act 1972, section 19 Local Government Act 2000, Regulations 7 and 10 Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000 and all other enabling powers. The resolution has regard to "Emergency Response and Recovery" the non-statutory Guidance issued pursuant to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
2. As from the date of this resolution the Council's functions under section 138(1) Local Government Act 1972 (Powers of principal councils with respect to emergencies or disasters) are delegated to the Council which has appointed the Head of Paid Service as defined in paragraph 3 below in the circumstances set out in paragraphs 4-7 below.
3. The Head of Paid Service is the person appointed by one of the Councils under section 4 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 who, following the convening of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group ("Gold Command") to respond to an incident requiring a "Level 2" response (as defined in paragraph 4 below) has agreed to discharge the functions under section 138(1) Local Government Act 1972 ("the functions") on behalf of the Councils.
4. An emergency requiring a Level 2 response is a single site or wide-area disruptive challenge which requires a co-ordinated response by relevant agencies.
5. The functions hereby delegated shall not be exercised until resolutions delegating the functions have been made by all the Councils.
6. The powers hereby delegated to the Council which has appointed the Head of Paid Service shall not include any power to incur expenditure or to make grants or loans to any person unless either:
 - the Head of Paid Service has received confirmation from the Minister that expenditure reasonably incurred by the Head of Paid Service in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience will be reimbursed by HM Government; or

- the Head of Paid Service has received confirmation on behalf of the Council(s) in whose area(s) the incident has occurred that expenditure reasonably incurred by the Head of Paid Service in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property; to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience and to promote community cohesion and a return to normality, will be met by the Council (or the Councils in proportions to be agreed by them).
7. In the event the Minister has confirmed that expenditure will be reimbursed by HM Government, the Head of Paid Service shall, insofar as reasonably practicable, consult with and inform the Council(s) in whose area(s) the incident has occurred regarding any action proposed to be taken.